

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an opposite end portion, said cylindrical body further comprising a plurality of collar sections spaced apart from one another to define a gap between adjacent collar sections, each said collar section having a central axis coaxially aligned with each other said collar sections, said opposite end portion of said cylindrical body defining one of said plurality of collar sections having a partial tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body further defining at least one collar section having said inside diameter and said outside diameter; and

three link segments spanning said gap interconnecting each of said plurality of collar sections, said three link segments equally spaced circumferentially apart, said three link segments circumferentially defining an outermost surface smaller in diameter than said outside diameter of said cylindrical body and an innermost surface greater in diameter than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define at least one first annular outer groove between adjacent collar sections and at least one first annular inner groove between adjacent collar sections;

at least one first seal mounted in said at least one first annular outer groove;

at least one second seal mounted in said at least one first annular inner groove, and surrounding said three link segments to interlock said at least one first seal mounted in said annular outer groove and said at least one second seal mounted in said annular inner groove of said cylindrical body to form said composite sleeve seal as one integral component.

17. (Previously Presented) A composite sleeve seal for sealing a conduit connection, said composite sleeve seal comprising:

a cylindrical body having an outside diameter, an inside diameter, one end portion and an opposite end portion defining a partial tapered portion along said outside diameter of said cylindrical body, said one end portion of said cylindrical body defining a plurality of collar sections spaced apart from one another to define a gap between adjacent collar sections, said plurality of collar sections being interconnected by three link segments equally circumferentially spaced and spanning said gap to interconnect each of said plurality of collar sections;

said three link segments circumferentially defining an outermost surface smaller in diameter than said outside diameter of said cylindrical body and an innermost surface greater in diameter than said inside diameter of said cylindrical body to define at least one first annular outer groove between adjacent collar sections and at least one second annular inner groove between adjacent collar sections;

at least one first resilient seal member mounted in said at least one first annular outer groove; and

at least one second resilient seal member mounted in said at least one first annular inner groove, said first and second resilient seal members further mounted contiguous

each said plurality of collar sections and surrounding each of said three link segments to interlock said first resilient seal member mounted in said first annular outer groove and said second resilient seal member mounted in said first annular inner groove with said cylindrical body to form said composite sleeve as one integral component.

18. (Previously Presented) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said at least one collar section is made of a plastic material and said at least one seal portion and said at least one second seal portion is made of an elastomer material.

19. (Previously Presented) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said three link segments interconnecting each of said plurality of collar sections are spaced 120° apart about said inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.

20. (Previously Presented) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein each of said plurality of collar sections is made from a plastic material and said first and second resilient seal members are made from an elastomer material.

21. (Currently Amended) The composite sleeve seal as claimed in Claim 17 wherein said three link segments interconnecting each of said plurality of collar sections are circumferentially spaced 120° apart about ~~the~~ said inside and outside diameters of said cylindrical body.